The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It has been the aim of absolutism in all ages to suppress the popular will.—F. A. Cleveland.

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TRADE UNIONISM OF FIRST IMPORTANCE TO WORKERS

In an address to the recent convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, an official of the Pennsylvania railroad devoted one-half of his talk to a defense of the company "union."

One would imagine that the complex railroad question, interwoven as it is in the economic life of the people, would be a subject of first importance to these business men.

The subject of first importance, however, is how to control labor; how to keep labor "contented"; how to keep it "in its place" while marking time with the spirit of the age—in short, how to check labor's growing demand for a voice in industry.

To industrial autocrats profit, efficiency and elimination of waste are secondary as compared with loss of power over workers.

They will attend to the profits if their autocracy is unchallenged.

These autocrats are pursuing two courses to attain the same objective. One group, headed by the steel trust and the National Association of Manufacturers, ignore the trend of the times and insist on their so-called "open" shop.

Stripped of its sophistry and cunning, this is a frank avowal that each employe must bargain as an individual with gigantic corporations.

The other group is more cautious. They make concessions to the spirit of the age, but they accomplish the same purpose. They maintain individual bargaining through the company "union" that is organized and maintained by them.

Trade unionism is of first importance to the workers. All other questions, all other issues, revolve around this principle.

Without organization every other activity is impossible. Any movement of the workers that is not based on their economic structure is an inverted pyramid.

The workers' success in education, in securing and enforcing remedial legislation, in co-operative enterprises, in molding public opinion, in being factors in social, economic and political problems, is in proportion to the strength and intelligence of their trade union movement.

The trade union movement is more than an instrument to raise wages and shorten hours.

Psychologists and students in the employ of anti-unionists have long since discovered its unlimited scope, its power to develop up-standing men and women.

But these employers are too wise to admit such possibilities. They refuse to endanger their social, industrial and political autocracy by awakening whom they control.

They continue to corrupt public opinion with their untruths regarding trade unionism; they lull employes with their company "union" and the pretense of an "open" shop.

To overcome the barriers anti-unionists have erected, the organized workers must put their lives into the cause of trade unionism.

They must consider it of first importance, just as did that railroad official before the National Association of Manufacturers.

The authentic purpose of the company "union" and the "open" shop must be discussed and understood wherever men and women labor.

OPERATORS VIOLATE CONTRACT MINERS' CHIEF TELLS PRESIDENT

Washington, Nov. 28.—In a letter to President Coolidge, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, calls the chief executive's attention to the contract-breaking policy of leading bituminous operators. They have repudiated a three-year agreement, signed last year. The departments of commerce and labor lent their moral force in the negotiation of the contract.

The president is asked if the government desires to intervene to maintain the integrity of this agreement, which was supposed to bring peace in the soft coal fields.

The leading contract breakers are the Pittsburgh Coal company, the Consolidated Coal company, the Bethlehem Mines corporation and the coal interests of Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railroad. These are the four largest coal-producing groups in the nation.

"If it should occur that the federal government is disposed not to provide for the protection of a meritorious wage agreement," said President Lewis, "might the mine workers believe that their own efforts in that direction may be considered as being illegitimate?

"To attain their unmoral objective, these companies, and certain others of lesser consequence, have utilized coercive and oppressive methods. Their actions have been destructive of confidence between employer and employed and constitute an unwarranted, indefensible blow at the universally recognized principle of collective bargaining.

"The federal government upon occasion, and from time to time, has intervened in the coal industry. Not alone the operators, but the miners, have felt the weight of its influence and regulated their policies accordingly. In all respect, the mine workers now inquire whether the federal government desires to intervene to maintain the morality and integrity of the existing agreement in the bituminous coal industry."

This is the second time that President Lewis had called upon federal officials to take cognizance of contract breaking by the soft coal operators.

In the last annual report of the secretary-treasurer favorable reference was made to the co-operation by that department when the agreement was signed. The report says that "the industry is now on the road to stabilization" and "no better example of co-operation to secure the elimination of national waste can be presented."

OPERATORS FAVOR STRIKES; CAN THEN SELL "BUG DUST"

New York, Nov. 28.—"The record proves that anthracite coal operators do not want long-term contracts," said Ellis Searles, editor of the Mine Workers' Journal, in an address to churchmen here.

"The fact is," said Mr. Searles, "the anthracite operators want frequent strikes so that they may impose upon the public by selling the waste and bug dust that accumulates each year at their mines.

"When a strike comes on and the public becomes frightened and panicky, the operators can sell this undesirable fuel at higher prices and clean up millions of dollars, just as they have done and are now doing in the present strike.

"When the anthracite operators say they are in favor of a long-term contract with the miners they deliberately attempt to fool the public. The miners have repeatedly tried to get the operators to sign a long-term contract, but the operators have invariably refused. During the entire 11 months of the 1922 strike the miners fought for a two-year contract. The operators demanded a contract for seven months only. The best the miners could get was an eleven-months' contract. When that contract was signed President Lewis proposed that the contract be extended to 1927 or 1928, but the operators refused. They did not want a long contract then and they do not want one now.

"If they were so anxious to avoid strikes and suspensions, as they now say they are, they had their chance to prevent them. If they agreed to President Lewis' proposal there would have been no strike in 1923 and there would be no strike in 1925."

Editor Searles again emphasized the miners' demand that wage differences be settled by conference rather than by an arbitrator.

"The coal operator does not arbitrate the price at which he sells his coal," said Mr. Searles. "The miner will not arbitrate the price at which he shall sell his labor."

FORCED RAIL MERGER HAS BEEN ABANDONED

Washington, Nov. 28.—The interstate commerce commission has abandoned its attempt to force a merging of the nation's railroads. The plan was worked out by Prof. C. Z. Ripley of Harvard university, who grouped the carriers into 23 great systems. The interstate commerce commission accepted this as a basis, and later proposed 19 regional groupings.

The railroads fought compulsory merging, which would fasten non-paying roads on those who are more prosperous. The railroads insist that the motor truck will revolutionize short hauls and will make it possible to abandon branch lines which now does not permit dividend earnings. These railroads, managers say, will drag down profitable roads if the mergers are forced.

That the commission is alert to changing conditions because of the motor truck is indicated by its approval of railroads abandoning short lines and installing the motor system.

Members of congress who recently advocated compulsory merging have also abandoned this idea. The carriers are perfecting consolidations of larger systems while they gradually weed out the lines with excessive overhead charges and small incomes.

CAN'T COMPEL UNITY; MUST BE VOLUNTARY

New York, Nov. 28.—"If we can't merge two locals of our international, how can we amalgamate the needle trades?" asks Editor Danish, editor of Justice, published by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

The editor appeals to delegates to the coming convention of this union to face actualities.

"The proposal to amalgamate all the needle trades into one union," the labor editor says, "is, under present conditions, an impossibility over which it is hardly worth while wasting time in discussion. It is because of these the obstacles we meet in each attempt to merge two locals to enable us to visualize what a bedlam such an attempt to merge all the needle trades' organizations would create."

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CALLED BY U. S. BUREAU

Washington, Nov. 28.—Miss Mary Anderson, head of the United States women's bureau, has issued a call for a women's industrial conference to be held here January 18 to 21. The bureau is a unit of the department of labor.

The call states that no fewer than 8,500,000 women are occupied in "gainful work in this country," according to government statistics, and this number is increasing every year.

TEACHING PROFESSION IS POOR MONEY GETTER

Washington, Nov. 28.—Measured by the "go-getter" standards of today, the teaching profession is not a "paying business."

A study of the cost of preparation for this profession made among graduate students in Columbia university, and published in the Labor Monthly, issued by the United States bureau of labor statistics, shows that this cost is excessive, when measured by money returns.

It was found that the average expenditure for absolutely necessary items connected with securing the degree of doctor of philosophy ranges from $7,500 to $8,000, according to the time spent in post-graduate work.

The average salary, after about 18 years of teaching and with the highest degree in the profession, varies from about $3,400 in the small universities or colleges, to $6,000 at the most in the large institutions.

OPPOSE JAP ENTRY WITH FEDERAL AID

Washington, Nov. 28.—Opposition to weakening the immigration law was recorded by the A. F. of L. executive council, at its quarterly meeting here.

The most insidious of these proposals is to place Japan under the quota section of the law, which now debars all immigrants ineligible for citizenship. If Japan secures recognition apart from other Oriental nations, the first wedge is driven into the law.

Advocates of this plan insist that the admission of 150 Japanese will harm no one, but will modify much of the ill feeling of the Japanese people. Opponents of this plan regret any nation develops ill will to the United States because the latter exercises its rights as a sovereign people, but that this country will not abandon its historic policy just because another nation "is mad"—a condition that has probably been stimulated by Japanese jingoes.

FATALITY RECORD GROWS

Chicago, Nov. 28.—The September fatal accident record in Illinois is shocking. During this period the industries killed, on an average, more than three men each day. This is a 50 per cent increase over August. Except for months of major catastrophes September was one of the worst months since 1911, when the workmen's compensation act was passed.

TOO MUCH POWER FOR ANY PRESIDENT

The A. F. of L. executive council records its opposition to empowering the president to arbitrarily reorganize the various departments of government. The proposal is urged by Congressman Davey of Ohio.

In theory, the plan is alluring.

"Let the departments be placed on an economic, business-like basis," the public is told.

In practice the plan would make a dictator of the president. He could rip up our whole system of government, could surround himself with favorites and dismiss those whom he dislikes. He would be armed with an absolutism even unknown under the spoils system in its wildest days.

This is too much power for a democratic people to place in the hands of their president, regardless of who occupies the White House.

The proposal is but another phase of the campaign against the law-making branch of our government by those who would center all power in the executive.

The Davy plan is as autocratic as Mussolini's most daring suggestion and is favored by those who have a contempt for our system of government, with its checks and balances.

The present world tendency is toward the "right"—toward dictatorship and against the parliamentary theory. This movement is open enough strong enough. When it dare not show its teeth, it is stealthy.

The latter policy is favored by American Mussolinis and Trotskys.

SECESSION UNIONISM HAS FAILED; TURMOIL AND DISSENSION RESULT

Haverhill, Mass., Nov. 28.—The Sunday Record calls on shoe workers everywhere to drop their dual and seceding organizations and join the legitimate Boot and Shoe Workers' union.

This newspaper is not a labor publication, but the editor has reached his present conclusions, he says, through a 40 years' knowledge of the shoe industry.

"In every instance independent or outlaw unionism has proved a curse to the shoe workers, to the shoe manufacturers and to the public," said the editor. "There isn't a single exception to this fact. It can not be disputed; all intelligent men know the truth of this statement.

"Today the three leaders in the making of turn shoes are Brooklyn, Lynn and Haverhill. Brooklyn has gained tremendously; both Lynn and Haverhill have lost enormously during the past four years. Lynn is now on the road to recovery. Her workers, to the number of more than 5,000, have joined the Boot and Shoe Workers' union. Labor has become stabilized; no longer do the manufacturers fear sudden strikes, or any strikes for that matter. Amalgamated union, which dominated Lynn realized that it made a fundamental failure as a national union. A large majority of its members voted to secede from that union and join the Boot and Shoe Workers' union. They were presented with the failure of the Amalgamated. Thus history repeats itself.

"The success of independent shoe unions is one long tale of woe, misery and failure for the shoe workers. How much more of this sort of failure must we have before the shoe workers of this city learn that following selfish and ignorant dictatorship leads nowhere except to failure?

"Why any manufacturer wishes to continue to deal with a secession shoe organization is more than we can fathom. Why any sane and logical worker wishes to continue membership in such a union is more than the average citizen can grasp. Such unionism is wrong from every principle of trade unionism. It is doubly wrong in a keenly competitive industry.

"The Sunday Record believes in trade unionism. It is a union plank, doing business with a sound and sane trade union in affiliation with the A. F. of L. We believe in that kind of unionism, and, by the same token, we believe in the Boot and Shoe Workers' union."

"LABOR'S REWARD" WINS IN WISCONSIN

Washington, Nov. 28.—The educational and organizing campaign of the A. F. of L. and Union Label Trades department is proving to be the biggest movement of its kind ever launched by organized labor. "Labor's Reward," the motion picture, is a feature of the campaign.

Officers of the Wisconsin state federation of labor telegraphed to John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades department:

"'Labor's Reward' made another hit, this time in Sheboygan. Hall filled to capacity with most receptive audience which pronounced this a highly educational evening. Splendid orchestra added to entertainment. Prospects in other localities bright for great success."

BASIC EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN PICTURE INDUSTRY?

Los Angeles, Nov. 28.—Motion picture producers told the state industrial welfare commission at a hearing here that they are willing to accept the basic eight-hour day.

One representative of the producers said that if the employment of women extras were limited to eight hours a day it would work "a material hardship on the industry." He said payment for overtime would be fair to both extras and producers.

One of the extra suggested that "tea parties" and unnecessarily frequent conferences between directors, assistants and stars could be blamed for many of the abnormally long working days.

WANT MORE KILLINGS IN ANTHRACITE MINES

New York, Nov. 28.—At the annual meeting of the anti-union National Founders' association the Pennsylvania miners' license law was condemned. Members of the association residing in that state were urged to work for its repeal.

The law antedates the organization of anthracite miners, and was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature to reduce the killing of workers in anthracite mines. As these mines are gaseous, skill is necessary to operate them. A miner must know how to detect gas and to protect life.

BUTCHER CONTRACT RENEWED

Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 28.—Organized butcher workers have renewed their wage contract.

LONGER LIFE ASSURED BY SCIENTIFIC PLAN

New York, Nov. 28.—The latest discoveries of medicine and sanitation can extend the average span of human life, said Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, surgeon general of the United States public health service, to physicians at a health conference here.

Dr. Cumming's address was a commentary on reports of experiments in Syracuse and Cattaraugus county to see whether 20 years can be added to the average life span by scientific care.

In Cattaraugus county, Dr. Cumming said, the death rate has been reduced by 350 persons per year and now is only $14,400, and the population is but 50,000. The saving of American citizens at a cost of less than $50 per life saved is good business, he said.

"Through the demonstrations in that county," continued Dr. Cumming, "sufficient evidence is at hand to show that properly conducted county health work will yield a remarkable dividend in the protection and promotion of human health and in money saving to the community amounting to many times its cost. Other communities are meeting their health problems in accordance with the same general principles. Now is the opportune time to proclaim: 'Go thou and do likewise.'"

A. F. OF L. OFFICIALS FAVOR WORLD COURT

Washington, Nov. 28.—Adherence to the world court principle was reaffirmed at the closing session of the A. F. of L. executive council. The action of the council follows:

"Inasmuch as former conventions of the A. F. of L. have endorsed a world court; we reaffirm our adherence to that principle of the world court; that we urge continuance of study by President Green of all proposals submitted on this subject and that he report to congress; that he, President Green, keep the executive council continually advised and informed of such progressive studies, and that he be authorized to further the participation and advocacy of the A. F. of L. along positive studies, and that he be authorized to further the participation and advocacy of the A. F. of L. along positive lines in the world court decisions of the executive council on this subject and that they be requested not to take any action on this subject contrary to the decisions of the A. F. of L."

THEATER WORKERS ENJOINED

Pawtucket, R. I., Nov. 28.—Efforts to picket the reinstatement of a discharged theater worker employed by the Rialto-Loew theater has affected a dozen Massachusetts theaters. Superior Court Judge Qua enjoined motion picture operators, musicians, employes and musicians from "interfering" with the business of the Loew concern.

APPRENTICE SCHOOL AIDED BY UNIONISTS

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 28.—The second commencement of the Cleveland building trades apprentice school will be held on Wednesday evening, December 2. The school is conducted by the board of education in co-operation with building trades unions, employers' associations, federal and state vocational education boards.

The school is operated under the Smith-Hughes act of 1917 in which congress provides for the support of part-time trade schools. Every dollar appropriated by the federal government must be matched by an equal amount by the state or local community, or by both. Additional funds must be furnished by the local board of education. Building material to operate the school is donated without cost by local material dealers and manufacturers.

Speakers at the commencement exercises will include Secretary of Labor Davis and Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president and chairman of the A. F. of L. committee on education.

KIDDIES NEED SHOES IN FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Washington, Nov. 28.—President Green requests A. F. of L. organizers to acquaint trade unionists with conditions in the fight for a strike union in northern West Virginia. Shoes and clothing are needed for the women and children.

This, said President Green, will supplement the relief work of the United Mine Workers which is spending thousands of dollars each month for food, fuel and shelter. Another large expense is consenting injunctions issued by former corporation lawyers who are now in judicial positions.

All packages should be forwarded to the international representative of the United Mine Workers, Van A. Bittner, Odd Fellows building, Fairmont, West Virginia.

The miners suspended work when the operators scrapped a three-year agreement signed at Jacksonville, last year. These operators have doubled the price of their coal since the anthracite strike and are now using every power of the state and federal judiciary to smash the United Mine Workers.

The strikers and their families are housed in barracks erected by the union.

In urging organizers to impress the situation upon trade unionists, President Green says:

"There are many wives and children of striking miners in northern West Virginia who are suffering for lack of shoes and clothing. I know of no place in America where the need is greater or the call for assistance is more justifiable."

BUILDERS WANT MORE

New York, Nov. 28.—The Building Trades Employers' association has refused labor union demands for building trades unions. The issue will be referred to the general office of the employers' association and the executive board of the Building Trades Council.

Officers of the labor unions say the increase is now paid by employers as bonuses.

"We would rather have the bonuses written into the agreements as increases than to have them remain a disturbing factor in the trade," said John Halfett, president of the Building Trades Council.

"The employers are to blame for the pressure. In many cases New York employers are paying more for work in other cities and I do not see how they can make a stand here."

ANTIS' FEARFUL BLUNDER

Minneapolis, Nov. 28.—The publicity department of the citizens' alliance points to the construction of a local school house as a fine piece of anti-union workmanship. The job was union throughout.

WANT JAPANESE KEPT OUT; LAW CHANGES ARE OPPOSED

San Francisco, Nov. 28.—The Pacific coast delegation in congress is practically united in opposing any change in the immigration law that will permit the admission of Japanese.

The fight in this state to continue Japanese restriction is directed by the California joint immigration committee, consisting of the state senate of the Golden West and the state organizations of the American Federation of Labor, the American Legion and the Grange. The executive secretary is V. S. McClatchy, editor of the Sacramento Bee.

In a speech to the recent state convention of the American Legion he said there are more Japanese in the United States than in all the other countries of the world combined, outside of the empire of Japan.

"Of all the English-speaking countries," said Mr. McClatchy, "the United States alone has permitted the Japanese, an indigestible race, with dangerous advantages in economic competition, to secure such a foothold in its territory. Australia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand—dominions of Great Britain, which had a close treaty with Japan—excluded Japanese from the first; and Canada, which failed to exclude them when the opportunity offered and afterward was compelled to enter into a 'gentlemen's agreement,' has found that agreement so unsatisfactory, even after amendment, that British Columbia, now the province most affected, is demanding absolute exclusion.

"Congress, in stopping Japanese immigration, did so by passing a general law carrying out the established policy of the nation excluding all aliens ineligible for citizenship. The law was not discriminatory, for it applies equally to half the population of the globe.

"Congress, in adopting this measure, did an extraordinary thing which had never before been done by it, for it passed the law over the veto, and by unanimous vote in the face of the most determined and widespread opposition. The way of right was open to it; the president threatened to veto it if passed; the organized churches and business men in the country, every element and the peace societies fought it; commercial organizations, fearful of injury to trade, protested violently; most of the leading newspapers in the eastern states editorially denounced it as unjustified. California was provoking war with Japan because of her narrow and prejudiced views.

"Why did congress pass the exclusion measure under such conditions? Because during its three months' investigation, supplemented by long previous study, an exhaustive presentation of the facts satisfied it that only in this way could the rights and welfare of the nation be protected, and that intelligent and loyal Americans, when they learn the facts, would approve the action taken."

Union Life Insurance Company Formed By Organized Workers

Washington, Nov. 28.—The Union Labor Life Insurance company was launched at a two-days' meeting of the organization committee in this city. Tentative by-laws were adopted and the following officers elected: Matthew Woll, president photo engravers' international, president; George Perkins, president cigarmakers' international, secretary-treasurer; executive committee: Martin F. Ryan, president railway car men's international; Luther Steward, president federal employes; James M. Lynch, president typographical international; Thomas E. Burke, secretary-treasurer metal polishers international, and Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer federation of post office clerks.

Together with the above mentioned, the following served as an organizing committee: Morris Sigman, ladies' garment workers; Wm. D. Mahon, street car employes; James Maloney, glass bottle blowers; E. C. Davison, machinists, acting for Wm. Johnston.

The company is incorporated under the laws of Maryland. The home office will be in Washington. The by-laws provides for capital stock in the amount of $500,000, including surplus capital. It is intended to sell stock to labor only, with 800 shares as a maximum to international unions, 80 to local unions and central bodies, and 40 to individuals. The price is $50 a share. Individuals may secure the stock on the partial payment plan. Two-thirds of the board of directors must be members of unions affiliated to the A. F. of L., and not more than one director from any one union is eligible on the board. Where a stockholder desires to dispose of his holdings, the company has the first option. This provision is intended to hold the company in trade union hands.

The company will write policies similar to recognized life insurance companies. Profits will be returned to policy holders and the machinery of the unions will be used to secure business, thus dispensing with expensive sales and advertising, and a heavy fixed charge on other companies.

The new venture is the result of long discussion among trade unionists. The A. F. of L. has served as the instrumentality to secure information and assist the international and national unions in arranging the preliminaries. At the Paso convention of the A. F. of L. the report of the committee—consisting of Messrs. Woll and Perkins—was concurred in and A. F. of L. officials were instructed call a meeting of international and national representatives, when this information would be submitted to them. The meeting was called last summer, and this concluded the mission of the A. F. of L. The matter is now in the hands of its affiliates.

No Safety Plan and Rush Orders Caused Pennsy Railroad Wreck

Newark, N. J., Nov. 28.—Blame the engineer, but not the Pennsylvania railroad for its failure to install safety devices, declares the Evening News, in an editorial on the wreck near here that cost 10 lives when the Washington express crashed into the rear of another train during a heavy fog.

"Timothy J. Carroll is a tragedy of railroad life," said the Evening News. "Ten warrants were issued for his arrest on charges of manslaughter, just as though he were a common criminal. This was in spite of the fact that with a long record of fine service he was recognized as qualified to hold down the responsible position of engineer on a crack train. Through good and bad weather he had piloted it safely. He had proved himself competent and trustworthy. Then came the foggy morning of fate. Opening wide the throttle to make good time on a straight track, he missed a signal in the gloom.

"Writing in the same paper, Charles Allenthorpe refers to the statement of a Pennsylvania railroad "higher up" that "Carroll will never run a passenger train again."

"How brave and reassuring these words," says the correspondent. "Nothing could be done to a man such as Carroll had to be given such a run. Only seven of 100 like him who start as firemen become engineers. He had to have the stamina of an oarsman, the sight of an aviator, the manly judgment of a supreme court member, the clarity of mind of a surgeon to be at 60 the man who trusted safety instead of persons and steel over ribbons of track.

"Carroll and his kind have to 'cuss the custard' so the ilk who now say 'he'll never run another passenger train' can show sheets with 'O. T.' behind the note of arrival of each human conveyance. They can brag all they want to about safety, but they know and such as Carroll know, that if they don't 'cut 'er' some one will be put on the job who will."